The Evening World's TRICKS AND PUZZLES

How It Is Done—Sawing a Woman in Two

Second in a Series of Articles Explaining Familiar Stage Tricks

NO more sensational and mystifying trick has appeared in many years than that in which a magician seemingly saws a woman in two. In some forms of the illusion the woman is not restored to her original form. In others the trick ends with the woman restored and showing no ill effects from her experience.

A big box, deep and wide enough but not quite long enough to hold a person, stands on a substantial and low table. The table has castors so that it can easily be turned around. The top of the box is opened and it is pulled over so that the audience can see that there is no one hidden inside.

A woman assistant of the magician appears. After delivering a more or less scientific lecture on bloodless surgery, the magician hypnotizes the woman. Two assistants put her in the box. The ends of the box are made like old-fashioned stocks so that her feet can project at one end and her head at the other. These stocks are usually locked with padlocks. The cover is lowered.

A big two-handled saw is produced. The magician and an assistant proceed to saw the box in two through the middle. It seems almost obvious that the saw must cut through the woman.

Separating the box slightly, the magician clamps two pieces of wood over the severed portions. Then the two parts are separated. If one is to believe what he has seen, the saw has severed not only the box but the girl. The two portions are put together, the pieces of wood are removed and the girl is taken out. If she has been touched by the saw there is nothing to indicate it.

This is how it is done:

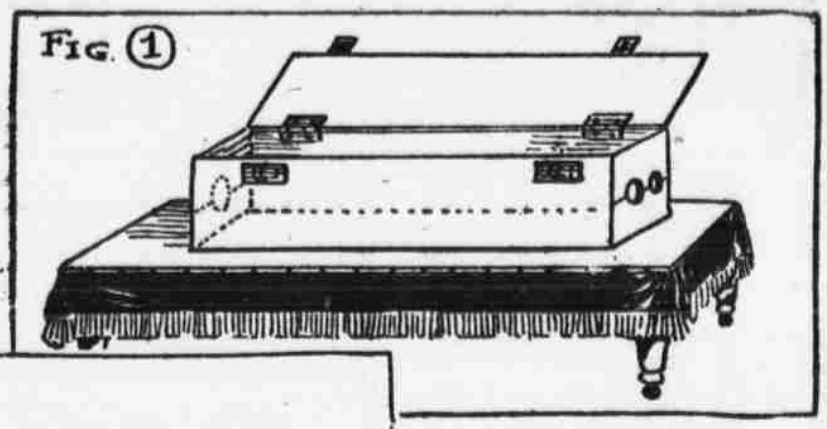
Two girls are used in the trick—a fact that many people suspect since what has apparently been done is obviously impossible.

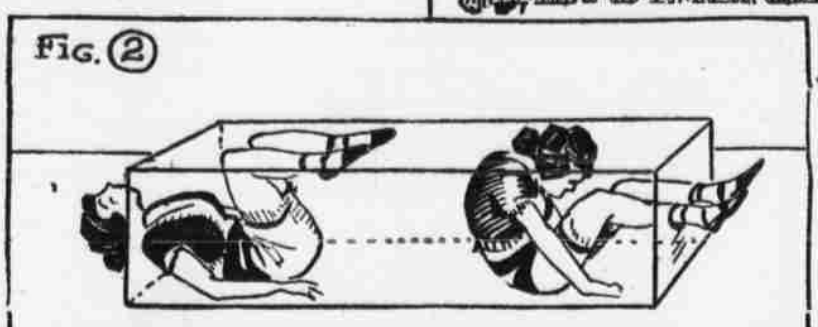
The heavy table is really a box on legs. (See Figure 1.) In this box made by clever designing to appear more shallow than it really is, the second girl is hidden. There is a trap door in the bottom of the box and a corresponding door in the top of the table.

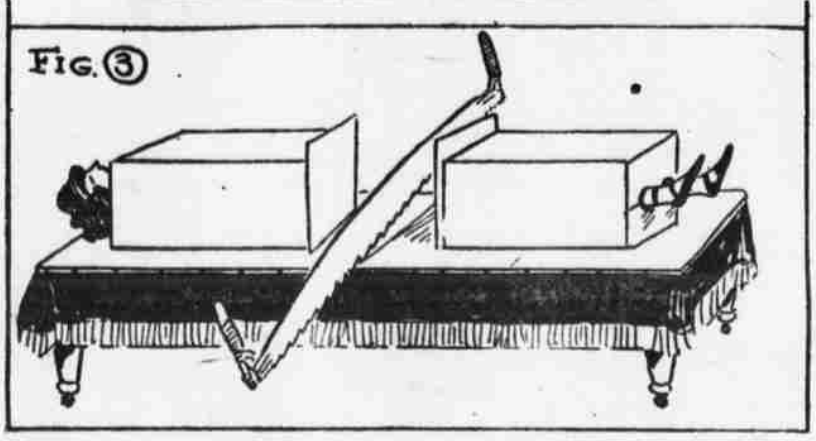
After the box has been shown, the girl gets out of the table and into the box. The time necessary for the hypnotizing, &c., gives her plenty of time to do this quietly.

When the girl who has been hypnotized is put into the box, the box is quickly turned around so that the audience can see the operation of clamping her head in the stocks. This gives the hidden girl a chance to get her feet in position to be clamped by the stocks at the other end of the box. Meanwhile the girl whose head the audience sees pulls her knees as near her head as she can. The other girl bends over so that her head rests on her knees. (See Figure 2.)

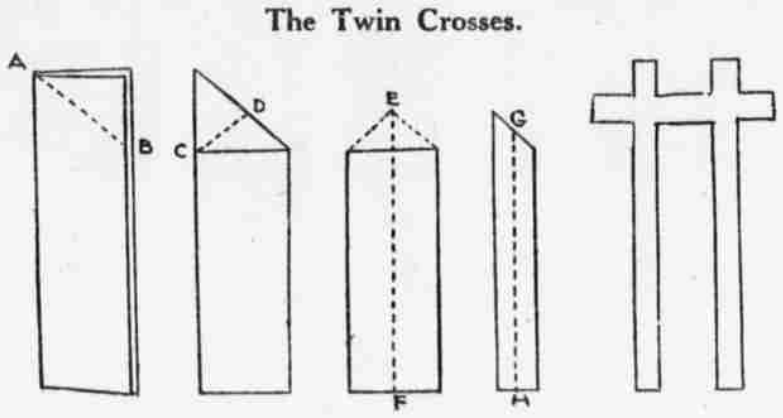
Now the box can be sawed through the middle, because there is four or five inches between the two girls. Placing the pieces of board in position hides the real condition of facts. Then the boxes are separated. (See Figure 3.) When they are put together again and the boards removed the assistants release the girl. First they release her feet. Then they turn the table around and release her head. That enables the hidden girl to hide in the top of the table while the head of the other girl is being released.







The Twin Crosses.



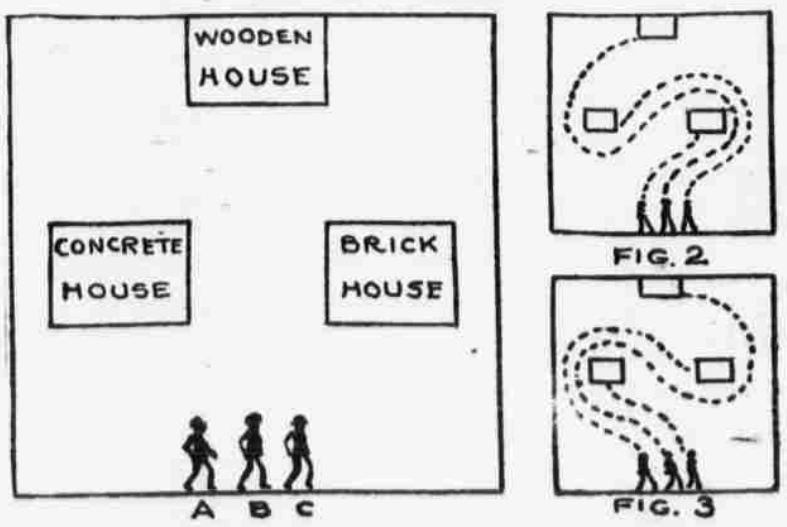
IF you know how to do it, a pair of twin crosses may be cut from a sheet of paper with one cut of the scissors. If you will follow the diagrams closely you will know how to do it.

Your paper should be about six inches long and three inches wide. First fold it lengthwise through the centre. Now fold down one of the upper corners (fold A to B). This will make your paper look like the second illustration. Now fold down the other corner, folding C to D. Your paper will look like the third picture. Now fold lengthwise through the middle (E to F), being careful to crease all of the folds. Fold lengthwise again (G. to H), and the folding is completed.

With the scissors cut the folded strip lengthwise through the middle. If you have followed directions exactly you should have two crosses, joined, as in the illustration and a number of bits of paper that have nothing to do with the case.

As a parlor stunt this trick is much more effective if the paper is torn instead of cut. You will, however, be unable to escape a ragged outline for your crosses.

The Three Enemies



THIS puzzle concerns three men who lived in a certain town. They were sworn enemies.

The large square represents the town in which they lived. The first man, whom we will call Mr. A., lived in the brick house. The second man lived in a wooden house. We will call him Mr. B. The third man lived in a concrete house. We will call him Mr. C. They entered the town where you see them in the picture. The intensity of their enmity made it seem necessary to them that each should get to his house without crossing the path of either of his enemies and without leaving the town.

How did they do it?

The next night, strangely enough, each took a route different from that taken the first night and still their paths did not cross.

The smaller diagrams show how they did it.

The Wizard's Sight.

ALWAYS examine the cards carefully before presenting this little card trick. Occasionally a pack of cards is found with which the trick can not be done. It would be a shame to spoil a good trick for the lack of a little foresight.

The magician places the picture cards in a row on the table. He tells the audience that he will leave the room. During his absence one of the spectators is to turn one of the cards around. When he returns he instantly points to the card which has been reversed.

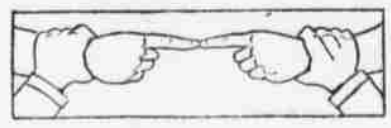
If you will examine the picture cards in the family's pack of cards you will probably find that there is just a little more margin at one end of each picture card than there is at the other. The difference is very slight but it is noticeable if you are looking for it. The cheaper the cards the more noticeable is the inequality.

When you put the cards in a row you take care that all of the broad margins are together. When a card is turned around you will detect it.

False Hypnotism.

IF YOU use the tricks and puzzles explained in The Evening World for the amusement of your friends, do not tell them "how it is done" unless the nature of the trick makes that course necessary. Your friends will give you considerable credit for cleverness if they use their wit in vain to discover the secret of the trick and none at all if they know how very simple are the means by which they are bewildered.

Here is a very simple trick that makes a very impressive parlor stunt.



Pretend to hypnotize one of your friends. Then press the forefinger of the left hand against the forefinger of the right. Ask your "hypnotized" friend to grasp your wrists, one with each hand, and to pull your hands apart.

Of course he succeeds. Nothing very wonderful about that.

Press your forefingers together again and say:

"While your hands rest on my wrists this time your strength is gone. You cannot separate my hands."

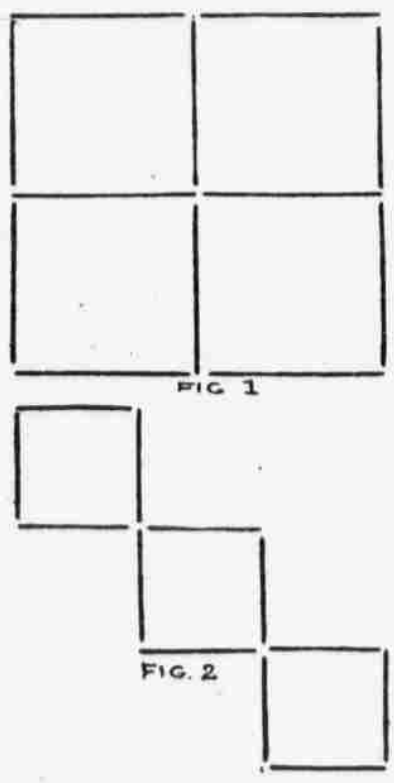
He can't. Even if he is much stronger than you are, he will need to exert every ounce of his strength to separate the fingers as much as a fraction of an inch against your will. Try it and see.

The reason is—well, just what is the reason?

A Toothpick Paradox.

TWELVE toothpicks figure in this problem. Ask that they be arranged to form four squares, all of the same size. This is easy. Figure 1 shows how they should be arranged.

"The second part of the puzzle is a little more difficult," you will say. "We want to arange the same twelve



toothpicks so that they will form three squares, all of the same size. Four of the toothpicks must stay as they are."

Figure 2 shows how they will be arranged when the puzzle is solved.